

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1096

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain housing benefits to disabled members of the Armed Forces, to expand certain benefits for disabled veterans with severe burns, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 12, 2007

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. AKAKA, and Mrs. HUTCHISON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain housing benefits to disabled members of the Armed Forces, to expand certain benefits for disabled veterans with severe burns, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Housing
5 Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND STRUCTURAL ALTER-**
2 **ATIONS FOR TOTALLY DISABLED MEMBERS**
3 **OF THE ARMED FORCES BEFORE DISCHARGE**
4 **OR RELEASE FROM THE ARMED FORCES.**

5 Section 1717 of title 38, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
7 section:

8 “(d)(1) In the case of a member of the Armed Forces
9 who, as determined by the Secretary, has a total disability
10 permanent in nature incurred or aggravated in the line
11 of duty in the active military, naval, or air service, the
12 Secretary may furnish improvements and structural alter-
13 ations for such member for such disability or as otherwise
14 described in subsection (a)(2) while such member is hos-
15 pitalized or receiving outpatient medical care, services, or
16 treatment for such disability if the Secretary determines
17 that such member is likely to be discharged or released
18 from the Armed Forces for such disability.

19 “(2) The furnishing of improvements and alterations
20 under paragraph (1) in connection with the furnishing of
21 medical services described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of
22 subsection (a)(2) shall be subject to the limitation speci-
23 fied in the applicable subparagraph.”.

1 **SEC. 3. SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR**
 2 **DISABLED VETERANS WITH SEVERE BURNS.**

3 Section 2101 of title 38, United States Code, is
 4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by adding at the end
 6 the following new subparagraph:

7 “(E) The disability is due to a severe burn in-
 8 jury (as determined pursuant to regulations pre-
 9 scribed by the Secretary).”; and

10 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

11 (A) by striking “either” and inserting
 12 “any”; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following new
 14 subparagraph:

15 “(C) The disability is due to a severe burn in-
 16 jury (as so determined).”.

17 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING FOR**
 18 **DISABLED VETERANS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31,
 20 2007, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to
 21 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the
 22 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-
 23 resentatives a report that contains an assessment of the
 24 adequacy of the authorities available to the Secretary
 25 under law to assist disabled veterans in acquiring—

1 (1) suitable housing units with special fixtures
 2 or movable facilities required for their disabilities,
 3 and necessary land therefor;

4 (2) such adaptations to their residences as are
 5 reasonably necessary because of their disabilities; or

6 (3) residences already adapted with special fea-
 7 tures determined by the Secretary to be reasonably
 8 necessary as a result of their disabilities.

9 (b) FOCUS ON PARTICULAR DISABILITIES.—The re-
 10 port required by subsection (a) shall pay particular atten-
 11 tion to the needs of veterans who have disabilities that
 12 are not described in subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) of sec-
 13 tion 2101 of title 38, United States Code.

14 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY OF DISABLED VETERANS AND MEM-**
 15 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE**
 16 **BURN INJURIES FOR AUTOMOBILES AND**
 17 **ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT.**

18 Section 3901(1) of title 38, United States Code, is
 19 amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

21 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
 22 striking “or (iii)” and inserting “(iii), or (iv)”;
 23 and

24 (B) by adding at the end the following new
 25 clause:

1 “(iv) A severe burn injury (as determined
 2 pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Sec-
 3 retary); or”; and
 4 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or (iii)”
 5 and inserting “(iii), or (iv)”.

6 **SEC. 6. ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED**
 7 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES RESIDING**
 8 **TEMPORARILY IN HOUSING OWNED BY A**
 9 **FAMILY MEMBER.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 2102A
 11 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “In the case”;

13 (2) by striking “disabled veteran who is de-
 14 scribed in subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2) of section 2101
 15 of this title and” and inserting “person described in
 16 paragraph (2)”;

17 (3) by striking “such veteran’s” and inserting
 18 “the person’s”;

19 (4) by striking “the veteran” and inserting “the
 20 person”;

21 (5) by striking “the veteran’s” and inserting
 22 “the person’s”; and

23 (6) by adding at the end the following new
 24 paragraph:

25 “(2) A person described in this paragraph is—

1 “(A) a veteran who is described in subsection
2 (a)(2) or (b)(2) of section 2101 of this title; or

3 “(B) a member of the Armed Forces who—

4 “(i) has, as determined by the Secretary, a
5 disability permanent in nature described in sub-
6 section (a)(2) or (b)(2) of section 2101 of this
7 title that has incurred in the line of duty in the
8 active military, naval, or air service;

9 “(ii) is hospitalized or receiving outpatient
10 medical care, services, or treatment for such
11 disability; and

12 “(iii) is likely to be discharged or released
13 from the Armed Forces for such disability.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is
15 further amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “veteran”
17 both places it appears and inserting “person with a
18 disability”; and

19 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “veteran” and
20 inserting “person”.

21 (c) REPORT ON ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED VET-
22 ERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO RE-
23 SIDE IN HOUSING OWNED BY FAMILY MEMBER ON PER-
24 MANENT BASIS.—Not later than December 31, 2007, the
25 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-

1 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
2 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representa-
3 tives a report on the advisability of providing assistance
4 under section 2102A of title 38, United States Code, to
5 veterans and members of the Armed Forces described in
6 subsection (a) of such section, as amended by subsection
7 (a) of this section, who reside with family members on a
8 permanent basis.

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